

Declaration of the Rights of Man

- As violence continued to spread throughout the countryside, members of the Third Estate demanded equality for all citizens of France. Members of the first and second Estates held out, refusing to grant equal rights and refusing to give up the special privileges that they had enjoyed for so many centuries.
- The continued escalation of violence finally convinced them that they had no choice but to give up and submit to the will of the much larger third estate.
- On August 4, 1789, the National Assembly passed a number of important reforms that abolished feudal dues and established taxes on members of the first and second estates.
- The National Assembly then turned their attention towards creating a bill of rights for their people.
- This declaration of Rights included the freedom of speech, the freedom of the press, and the freedom of religion.
 - It also protected citizens from being falsely arrested. This Declaration of Rights remains in the French Constitution to this day.
- The Declaration of the Rights of Man was one of the most fundamental documents of the French Revolution.
- The Declaration of the Rights of Man was drafted over a period of 6 days between August 20th and August 26th, 1789 by the National Assembly of France.
- The Declaration of the Rights of Man was, like the Declaration of Independence in the American Colonies, a statement to the aristocracy of the public's disdain for specific policies and would eventually become the essence of the preamble to the Constitution of 1791.
- The Declaration of the Rights of Man was drafted by the Marquis de Lafayette and was strongly influenced by the theories of the social contract and individualism espoused by Jean-Jacques Rousseau as well as the separation of powers theory discussed by Baron de Montesquieu.
- The Declaration of the Rights of Man was heavily influenced by the Virginia Declaration of Rights as well as the Dutch Patriot Movement.
- The Declaration of the Rights of Man were written as a direct refutation of the laws and policies of the aristocratic regimes of the past.
 - Popular sovereignty was to replace "divine right."
- The Declaration of the Rights of Man also had the goal of granting individuals the "natural, inalienable and sacred human rights" including "freedom, property, safety and the right to resist oppression."